



NEWS RELEASE

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STATE AWARDS \$527,359 IN TRAINING ACCELERATION GRANTS

INDIANAPOLIS (December 21, 2005) - The Indiana Department of Workforce Development and Indiana Economic Development Corporation have awarded \$527,359 in Training Acceleration Grants to five Indiana companies or consortia.

The Training Acceleration Grant program provides financial assistance to companies and organizations seeking to expand the skills of their existing workforce through training programs that result in industry-recognized credentials. This grant program is one of the state's primary job training programs offered to Indiana businesses.

"The Training Acceleration Grant program is a major weapon in our efforts to train and retrain Indiana's workforce," said Ron Stiver, Commissioner of the Department of Workforce Development. "It is our major effort wherein we can advance the skills of our existing workers one level at a time. These investments have become all the more important as Indiana faces a serious workforce literacy deficit that must be addressed so that our firms and workers can compete worldwide."

"Incentives such as the Training Acceleration Grant are important assets the state can use to assist in the expansion of Indiana Businesses at a time when economic growth and diversification are top priorities," said Patricia R. Miller, Secretary of Commerce and chief executive of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation.

The program has four core objectives: promoting small businesses; fostering job retention and expansion; increasing personal income for Hoosier workers; and providing training to address skill gaps in the Hoosier workforce.

The names of the firms awarded the grants, location, and amount awarded:

Employer/Consortia	City	Amount
Conseco Services LLC	Carmel	\$ 31,960.00
Interlocal Association Consortium (6 Hospitals in South Central Indiana)	Beech Grove (St. Francis Hospital) Martinsville (Morgan Hospital) Shelbyville (Major Hospital) Bloomington (Bloomington Hospital) Columbus (Columbus Regional Hospital) Rushville (Rush Memorial Hospital)	\$199,999.00* *total grant

Zimmer Paper Products	Indianapolis	\$199,160.00
MPI Indiana Fineblanking	Knox	\$ 21,440.00
Delphi	Kokomo	\$ 74,880.00**

**The Delphi grant is an amendment to a previous grant, which will provide for the training of 35 additional employees on the newest edition of NX, a software program used by Delphi for both CAD and CAM applications by tool makers and model makers. Each employee will receive approximately 40 hours of classroom-related training.

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve worker skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with Indiana's 26 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates a statewide job placement service.